

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 2, 3, 4, and 10 have been amended. These amendments are made to even more clearly recite the claimed invention, do not add prohibited new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The outstanding Office Action dated December 3, 2007 rejects claims 2-3, 5, and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindhoff (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,888, hereinafter the '888 patent) and Lindhoff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,107, hereinafter the '107 patent) and Jayaraman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0087622, hereinafter "JAYARAMAN"). Furthermore, the Office Action rejects claims 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '888 patent, the '107 patent, and Baugh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,150,379, hereinafter "BAUGH").

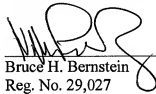
Applicants submit that independent claims 2, 3, 4, and 10 (and claims dependent therefrom) are not rendered obvious by the cited publications, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections, and an indication of the allowability of all claims pending in the present application in due course. Applicants further submit that dependent claims 5, 7, 8, and 9 are allowable for at least the same reasons applicable to independent claims 2, 3, 4, and 10, and additionally, for the specific features recited in each dependent claim.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time is deemed to be necessary to maintain the pendency of the application, including any extension of time fees for entry of an Examiner's Amendment, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby requested and authorization is hereby provided to charge any necessary fees to maintain the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-0089. If the Examiner has any questions, or wishes to discuss this matter, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hiromi MATSUSAKA



Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

**William Pieprz**  
**Reg. No. 33,630**

June 2, 2008  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191